

## **Fisheries Division Releases Management Updates for Waters in Southwest Michigan (2013-2014)**

The Southern Lake Michigan Management Unit is announcing fishery management actions and activities for the 2013-2014 angling season. These include fish stocking, habitat rehabilitation projects, creel census, fish community surveys, and angler access programs.

“These management updates are provided as a means to notify anglers and the public of changes in management and to make lake and stream property owners aware of our survey activities,” said Jay Wesley, Southern Lake Michigan Unit Manager. “We also value and encourage public input regarding our management actions and activities.”

For more information on these activities, please contact Jay Wesley at 269-685-6851, [wesleyj@michigan.gov](mailto:wesleyj@michigan.gov), or at the Plainwell Operations Service Center, Plainwell, MI 49080.

The Southern Lake Michigan Management Unit covers the Grand, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Galien river watersheds and all the lakes and streams within that area. Each year, fisheries biologists and technicians evaluate management options on various water bodies in order to achieve increased fishery benefits. Fish stocking actions are reviewed at least every six years based on fish community or creel surveys. Counties with specific management actions and waters that are planned for surveys in 2013 are listed below. Anglers are asked to provide feedback on specific management options.

### Allegan County

**Pine Creek Pond** near Otsego has a new northern pike protected slot size limit of 24-34 inches. Chinook salmon stocking at **Port Saugatuck** will be reduced from 45,000 to 16,000 to reduce predation in Lake Michigan. Steelhead stocking will continue in the **Rabbit River**, and **Swan Creek** will continue to be stocked with brown trout. The **Kalamazoo River** will be sampled in April to determine the presence of spawning lake sturgeon as part of a long-term population rehabilitation effort. Available sturgeon eggs and larvae will be collected and raised in the streamside rearing facility in New Richmond. Walleye stocking will continue on the **Kalamazoo River** below Allegan Dam by annually altering between spring fingerling and fry life stages.

### Barry County

A proposal to increase the muskellunge size limit from 42 to 46 inches and to potentially stock muskellunge in **Gun Lake** will be out for public input throughout the spring. A bass recruitment evaluation will be conducted this fall on **Gun Lake**. **Thornapple Lake** will continue to be stocked with Great Lakes strain muskellunge to maintain a broodstock population and will be stocked with walleye. The size limit of northern pike on **Fish Lake** has been reduced from 30 to 24 inches. There are excellent shore fishing opportunities in the Yankee Springs Recreation Area at **Gun Lake**, **Deep Lake** and **Hall Lake**.

#### Berrien County

Fish community surveys are planned for **Sand, McCoy** and **Pipestone** creeks. Extensive habitat improvement along **McCoy Creek** through the city of Buchanan is planned for this spring and summer. Chinook salmon stocking will be reduced from 140,000 to 48,000 at the **Port of St. Joseph** to reduce predation in Lake Michigan. Brown trout stocking rates will be reduced on the **South Branch Galien River** to better match the streams carrying capacity. A creel survey will be conducted at the ports of **St. Joseph** and **Benton Harbor**.

#### Branch County

Fish community surveys are planned for **Lake Lavine, Prairie River** and **Fisher Creek**.

#### Calhoun County

Natural resource damage assessments associated with the oil spill will continue on the **Kalamazoo River** and **Talmadge Creek**. A fish community survey is scheduled for **Prairie Lake**. The **Rice Creek** dam removal and habitat restoration project in Marshall is expected to be completed with installation of an appropriate sized culvert and modifications to the diversion structure.

#### Cass County

Shore and wading opportunities for brown trout are available at Dodd County Park on the **Dowagiac River** and Russ Forest Park on **Dowagiac Creek**.

#### Clinton County

Great shore fishing opportunities are available on **Lake Ovid** in the Sleepy Hollow State Park. **Kloeckner (Drain) Creek** is scheduled for a fish community survey.

#### Eaton County

The **Grand River** offers fishing opportunities for walleye, suckers, smallmouth bass, steelhead and coho salmon at Delta Mills Park in Delta Township and Fitzgerald Park in Grand Ledge. Brown trout were recently introduced into the **Battle Creek River** in Bennett Park near Charlotte.

#### Ingham County

Coho salmon stocking in the **Grand River** near Lansing will be reduced to 50,000. The majority of the coho salmon stocking will be moved downstream below Lyons Dam to assist smolt survival by bypassing several dams. Michigan State University opened fishing along the north bank of the **Red Cedar River** from the municipal park up to Kalamazoo Street. Approximately 3,000 steelhead will be moved from the **Grand River** to the **Red Cedar River** to help promote this new fishing opportunity.

#### Ionia County

Shore fishing opportunities are available along **Sessions Lake** in the Ionia Recreation Area. Year round angling opportunities are available along the **Grand River** in Portland, Lyons and Ionia for catfish, suckers, walleye, steelhead and coho salmon.

#### Jackson County

Shore fishing opportunities are available at **Clear Lake** County Park.

#### Kalamazoo County

The **Long Lake** northern pike size limit will change from 24 inches to a 24-34 inch protected slot size limit. Natural resource damages associated with the **Kalamazoo River** oil spill will continue to be assessed.

#### Kent County

**Buck Creek** will continue to be stocked with brown trout and will also receive fall fingerling steelhead. The upper **Rogue River** will continue to be stocked with brown trout and the lower **Rogue River** will receive 25,000 yearling coho salmon that have been moved from Lansing. A walleye survey is scheduled for the **Grand River** near Grand Rapids, and the **Flat River** and **Bear Creek** will be surveyed this summer.

#### Montcalm County

A fish community survey is planned for **Townline Lake**, and the northern pike size limit on **Townline Lake** will change from 24 inches to the 24-34 inch protected slot limit.

#### Ottawa County

Chinook salmon stocking was discontinued at Riverside Park in the **Grand River** and will be reduced at the **Port of Grand Haven** to reduce predation in Lake Michigan. Chinook salmon stocking at the **Port of Holland** will also be reduced. A creel survey will be conducted at the ports of **Grand Haven**, **Port Sheldon** and **Holland**.

#### St. Joseph County

A fish community survey is scheduled for **Lake Templene**. The Type B trout regulation will be removed from **Corey Lake**, but this regulation change will not go into effect until at least 2014. Channel catfish and walleye stocking is proposed for **Palmer**, **Long** and **Sturgeon** lakes to take advantage of the abundant gizzard shad populations in those lakes.

#### Van Buren County

**North Scott Lake** is scheduled for a fish community survey. The **South Branch Paw Paw River** and **Pine Creek** will continue to be stocked with brown trout, and some sites will be moved. **Sand Creek** will continue to be stocked with brown trout. Chinook salmon stocking will be reduced at the **Port of South Haven**. A creel survey will be conducted at **South Haven**.